



DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD.

DIRECTIVE

NUMBER: 04-21

December 9, 2004

TO: All Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service Personnel

FROM: Gordon A. Aoyagi, Fire Administrator

SUBJECT: MCFRS SAFE DRIVING ACTION PLAN

Purpose: To adopt uniform MCFRS procedures for emergency vehicle safe operations and apparatus driving.

The following system-wide Safe Driving Action Plan Directive is issued to reduce emergency vehicle collisions and incidents in the fire and rescue service. All MCFRS personnel must comply with the following:

1. Unit Officers who have arrived first on the scene of an incident and have made an assessment that the incident is to be safely mitigated and determined that the incident is not complex (minor vehicle collisions, single family home or other small structure with "nothing evident," etc. should have all other incoming units "proceed routine" to the scene of the incident. Unit Officers and Incident Commanders should also consider level one staging for units responding to the incident.
2. Unit Officers shall be responsible to provide immediate, affirmative direction to the driver of any vehicle to "slow down" if this directive is being violated or the speed of the vehicle is considered unsafe for driving conditions. Unit Officers shall also provide directions to discontinue any unsafe operations of an emergency vehicle. The Unit Officer should first attempt to correct the behavior through counseling, coaching, warning or an direct order to comply. If this intervention fails, the officer must order the emergency vehicle stopped in a safe location and remove the vehicle from response mode and to immediately discontinue any further unsafe action by the operator. This action must be taken by the officer even if it would delay or discontinue the response of the emergency vehicle to an emergency incident.
3. MCFRS driver operators shall not operate any MCFRS emergency vehicle (with emergency equipment activated) at a speed considered unsafe for the exiting roadway conditions and not greater **than 15mph above the posted speed limit at any time.** Vehicles operating in a routine response or driving routine **must not exceed the posted speed limit.**

4. All MCFRS driver operators operating in the emergency mode (emergency lights and sirens activated) must be in control of the vehicle and be able to come to a complete stop at all intersections to avoid a collision with another vehicle or pedestrian that may be in the intersection.
5. All MCFRS personnel must wear and use seat belts while riding on and/or driving any MCFRS vehicle. The Unit Officer must receive affirmative confirmation from each person on the unit that all personnel are seated, with seat belts fastened, prior to authorizing the vehicle driver to initiate any movement of the vehicle. On EMS units, patient care providers must also be belted at all times, unless wearing a seat belt would prohibit them from providing appropriate patient care.
6. EMS units (ALS and BLS) shall only utilize the emergency mode of transport for Priority 1 and Priority 2 patients with unresolved symptoms or pain or in cases where the patient condition may reasonably be expected to worsen.
7. All MCFRS collisions or incident involving any MCFRS emergency vehicle must be **immediately reported**, verbally and in writing by the collision/incident investigator, to the MCFRS Safety Office.
8. Drivers of medium duty vehicles (ambulances, brush trucks, vans, etc.) and heavy duty apparatus (engines, squads, aerial units, towers, tankers, etc.) and EMS vehicles must not use or operate handheld cell phones at any time while the driver is operating an emergency vehicle of this type.